

12/10/97

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PTO/SB/05 (6-95)

Approved for use through 11/30/98 OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: US Department of Commerce

plus sign (+) here → +

02/PTO Rev. 6/95	US Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney Docket Number	ARC 2600 R1
NEW UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL		First Named Inventor	THEEUWES, Felix, et al.
		Total Pages in this Submission	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

Note: Checklist items mentioned under **Application Elements** section construct a new utility patent application. Please refer to MPEP Sections 506, 801, (37 CFR 1.77, 1.53, 35 USC 111, 112, 113) for detailed explanation regarding completeness of an original patent application.

- 1 ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (prescribed filing fee(s))
- 2 ☒ Specification
 - ☒ Title of the Invention
 - ☐ Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)
 - ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)
 - ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix (if applicable)
 - ☒ Background of the Invention
 - ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings (if drawings filed)
 - ☒ Detailed Description
 - ☒ Claim or Claims
 - ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure
- 3 ☒ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
- 4 ☒ Executed Declaration
- 5 ☐ Genetic Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)
 - ☐ Paper Copy
 - ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

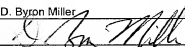
ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- 6 ☐ Assignment Papers
- 7 ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
- 8 ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche
- 9 ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 10 ☒ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
- 11 ☐ Petition Checklist and Accompanying Petition
- 12 ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- 13 ☐ Proprietary Information
- 14 ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- 15 ☐ Small Entity Statement
- 16 ☐ Additional Enclosures (please identify below)

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

ALZA Corporation
950 Page Mill Road
P.O. Box 10950
Palo Alto, CA 94303-0802

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name: D. Byron Miller
Signature: 
Date: December 10, 1997

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

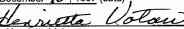
Application Number	Application Type:	Class:	Independent Claims:
Date of Receipt	Filing Date:	GAU:	Total Claims:
	Small Entity:	Foreign Filing License?:	Drawing Sheets:
		Foreign Address?:	Special Handling?:

SEND TO: Box PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, Express Mail mailing label no. TB 057 257 057 US, addressed to Box PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 10, 1997, (date)

By:


Henrietta Votaw

US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/17 (6-95)

Approved for use through 11/30/98 OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: US Department of Commerce

0002/PTO Rev. 10/95	US Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Complete if Known	
FEE TRANSMITTAL		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		First Named Inventor	THEEUWES, Felix, et al.
		Group Art Unit	
Total Amount of Payment (\$) 900.00		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	ARC 2600 R1

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)				FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																																																																																																																																																																	
1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to Deposit Account Number: 01-1173 Deposit Account Name: ALZA Corporation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge ANY Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 <input type="checkbox"/> Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.311(b)				3 ADDITIONAL FEES <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Small Fee Code</th> <th>Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>105</td><td>130</td><td>205</td><td>65</td><td>Surcharge-late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>127</td><td>50</td><td>227</td><td>25</td><td>Surcharge-late provisional filing fee or cover sheet</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>For filing a request for reexamination</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>115</td><td>110</td><td>215</td><td>55</td><td>Extension for response within first month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>116</td><td>400</td><td>216</td><td>200</td><td>Extension for response within second month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>117</td><td>950</td><td>217</td><td>475</td><td>Extension for response within third month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>118</td><td>1,510</td><td>218</td><td>755</td><td>Extension for response within fourth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>119</td><td>310</td><td>219</td><td>155</td><td>Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr> 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SUBMITTED BY Typed or Printed Name: D. Byron Miller Signature:				Complete (if applicable) Reg. Number: 30,661 Deposit Account User ID: 01-1173 Date: December 10, 1997																																																																																																																																																																																	

SEND TO: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Type a plus sign (+) here →

0010/PTO Rev. 12/95	US Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney Docket Number First Named Inventor	ARC2600 R1 THEEUWES, Felix, et al.
DECLARATION		COMPLETE IF KNOWN:	
		Application Number	
		Filing Date	
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Declaration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted with Initial Filing OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing			

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ENHANCING TRANSDERMAL AGENT FLUX

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 (a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Copy Attached?	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.
60/033,440	12/20/96	

SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

DECLARATION

Page 2

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

US Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional US or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Firm Name: ALZA Corporation

Payor Number: 01-1173
(if applicable)

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Steven F. Stone	20,246	D. Byron Miller	30,661
Paul L. Sabatine	22,539	John A. Dhuey	26,265
Michael J. Rafa	38,740	Christopher P. Rogers	36,334
		Pauline Ann Clarke	29,783

☐ Additional attorney(s) and/or agent(s) named on a supplemental sheet attached hereto.

☒ Please direct all correspondence to:

Name: D. Byron Miller

Address: ALZA Corporation

Address: 950 Page Mill Road

City: Palo Alto State: CA Zip: 94303-0802

Country: U.S.A. Telephone: (650) 496-8150 Fax: (650) 496-8048

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: Felix Theeuwes ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor.

Given Name: Felix Middle Initial: Family Name: Theeuwes Suffix:

Inventor's Signature: *Felix Theeuwes* Date: Dec 2, 1997

RESIDENCE

City: Los Altos Hills State: CA Country: U.S.A. Citizenship: Belgium

POST OFFICE ADDRESS 27350 Altamont Road

City: Los Altos Hills State: CA Zip: 94023 Country: U.S.A. Applicant Authority: US

☒ Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto.

DECLARATION				ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: Michel J.N. Cormier				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor.	
Given Name: Michel		Middle Initial: J.N.	Family Name: Cormier		Suffix:
Inventor's Signature: <i>Michel Cormier</i>			Date: 12/3/97		
RESIDENCE					
City: Mountain View		State: CA	Country: U.S.A.		Citizenship: French
POST OFFICE ADDRESS 278 Andsbury Avenue					
City: Mountain View		State: CA	Zip: 94043	Country: U.S.A.	Applicant Authority: US
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any: Armand P. Neukermans				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor.	
Given Name: Armand		Middle Initial: P.	Family Name: Neukermans		Suffix:
Inventor's Signature: <i>Armand Neukermans</i>			Date: 11/16/97		
RESIDENCE					
City: Palo Alto		State: CA	Country: U.S.A.		Citizenship: U.S.
POST OFFICE ADDRESS 3510 Arbutus Avenue					
City: Palo Alto		State: CA	Zip: 94303	Country: U.S.A.	Applicant Authority: US
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor.	
Given Name:		Middle Initial:	Family Name:		Suffix:
Inventor's Signature:			Date:		
RESIDENCE					
City:		State:	Country:		Citizenship:
POST OFFICE ADDRESS					
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:	Applicant Authority:
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor.	
Given Name:		Middle Initial:	Family Name:		Suffix:
Inventor's Signature:			Date:		
RESIDENCE					
City:		State:	Country:		Citizenship:
POST OFFICE ADDRESS					
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:	Applicant Authority:
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto.					

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ENHANCING TRANSDERMAL AGENT FLUX

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to transdermal agent delivery and sampling. More particularly, this invention relates to the transdermal delivery of agents, such as peptides and proteins, through the skin of an animal, as well as the transdermal sampling of agents, such as glucose, electrolyte and substances of abuse, such as but not limited to alcohol and illicit drugs.

BACKGROUND ART

Interest in the percutaneous or transdermal delivery of peptides and proteins to the human body continues to grow with the increasing number of medically useful peptides and proteins becoming available in large quantities and pure form. The transdermal delivery of peptides and proteins still faces significant problems. In many instances, the rate of delivery or flux of polypeptides through the skin is insufficient to produce a desired therapeutic effect due to the low flux of polypeptides through skin. In addition, polypeptides and proteins are easily degradable during and after penetration of the skin, prior to reaching target cells. Likewise, the passive flux of water soluble small molecules such as salts is limited.

One method of increasing the transdermal delivery of agents relies on the application of an electric current across the body surface or on "electrotransport". "Electrotransport" refers generally to the passage of a beneficial agent, e.g., a drug or drug precursor, through a body surface such as skin, mucous membranes, nails, and the like. The transport of the agent is induced or enhanced by the application of an electrical potential, which results in the application of electric current, which delivers or enhances delivery of the agent. The electrotransport of agents through a body surface may be attained in

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Lee et al., and 3,964,482 issued to Gerstel et al. These devices utilize tubular or cylindrical structures generally, although Gerstel does disclose the use of other shapes, to pierce the outer layer of the skin. Each of these devices provide manufacturing challenges, limited mechanical attachment of the structure to the skin, undesirable irritation to the skin, and/or limited conductive contact with the skin.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a high volume producible, low-cost device suitable for increasing transdermal flux with skin piercing protrusions and contacting a body surface over a large contact area to reduce skin irritation and enhance agent delivery or sampling. The device of the present invention pierces the stratum corneum of a body surface to form pathways through which a substance can either be introduced (i.e., delivery) or withdrawn (i.e., sampling). In one aspect, the invention comprises a plurality of protrusions for piercing the skin which extend through a connecting medium. The connecting medium assists in making substantial contact with the body surface for either delivering or sampling an agent. For an electrotransport device, the connecting medium spreads out the contact area to all the protrusions to reduce the current density at particular locations to reduce irritation.

In one aspect of the invention, the device utilizes a member having a plurality of openings therethrough, a plurality of blades integral therewith and extending downward from a first side of the member, and a connecting medium covering at least a part of the first side of the member. The device of the present invention can be used in connection with agent delivery, agent sampling or both. Delivery devices for use with the present invention include, but are not limited to, electrotransport devices, passive devices, osmotic devices and pressure driven devices. Sampling devices for use with the present invention include, but are not

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limited to, reverse electrotransport devices, passive devices, and osmotic devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a skin piercing device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the bottom side of a skin piercing device with a connecting medium removed therefrom for clarity in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a exploded perspective view of one embodiment of an electrotransport agent delivery system according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view of the electrotransport agent delivery system of figure 3;

Figure 5 is a right side elevational view of the electrotransport agent delivery system of figure 3;

Figure 6 is a rear elevational view of the electrotransport agent delivery system of figure 3;

Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 7-7 of the assembled electrotransport agent delivery system of figure 5;

Figure 8 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a passive agent delivery system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

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Figure 9 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a passive agent delivery system in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 10 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of an osmotic sampling system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Turning now to the drawings in detail, the skin piercing device 2 of the present invention is generally shown in Figure 1. Device 2 is used for the percutaneous administration or sampling of an agent. The terms "substance", "agent" and "drug" are used interchangeably herein and broadly include physiologically or pharmacologically active substances for producing a localized or systemic effect or effects in mammals including humans and primates, avians, valuable domestic household, sport or farm animals, or for administering to laboratory animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs, and the like. These terms also include substances such as glucose, electrolyte, alcohol, illicit drugs, etc. that can be sampled through the skin. The major barrier properties of the skin, such as resistance to agent conduction, reside with the outer layer (i.e., stratum corneum). The inner division of the epidermis generally comprises three layers commonly identified as stratum granulosum, stratum malpighii, and stratum germinativum. There is essentially little or no resistance to conduction or to absorption of an agent through the stratum granulosum, stratum malpighii, and stratum germinativum. The device of the present invention is used to pierce the stratum corneum for improved delivery or sampling of an agent and to make contact with the skin over a large contact area using a connecting medium 65 (FIG. 1).

The connecting medium 65 of the present invention is predisposed on the

skin contacting side 48 of the agent delivery or sampling device. In one embodiment, the connecting medium 65 is a conduit for the agent and acts as a bridge between the agent containing or collecting reservoir 26 and the skin, thus allowing an agent to be transported unhindered therethrough. The connecting medium can be free of agent or preloaded with agent. In the embodiment of FIG. 1, the reservoir 26 is illustrated as being separate from the connecting medium 65. It should be appreciated, however, that in some embodiments there will be migration of agent into the connecting medium prior to use of the device such that the reservoir and connecting medium are not discrete, for example, the matrix in the reservoir and the connecting medium can be the same material. In addition, a separate reservoir may not be present in that the connecting medium 65 may be the reservoir for the sampled agent or the agent to be delivered. In other words, the connecting medium is capable of storing the agent to be delivered or the sampled agent.

The connecting medium 65 is either fabricated and stored dry which can be rehydrated upon use or can be packaged in the hydrated form. In a preferred embodiment, the connecting medium is an ion conducting hydrogel of a pharmaceutically acceptable grade with minimum extractable or degradation products which sorbs or contains in a functional state an amount of water in the range from 20% to 90%, preferably in the range from 30% to 70%. Preferably the connecting medium is a hydrogel that is at least slightly crosslinked to prevent fragments of polymers from penetrating the skin and has adhesive or tacky properties.

The connecting medium 65 can be any of a large variety of materials as discussed above and further including, by way of example, an organic polymer having at least some pendent substituents capable of being ionic, a polar natural material, a semi-synthetic material, a cellulosic derivative, an alginate derivative, a starch derivative, a dextran, a polysaccharide, a hydrogel polymer having a

backbone selected from the group consisting of a hydrous-gelled, linear polyolefin, polycarbonate, polyester, polyether, polyurethane and polyepoxide backbone, with backbone substituents selected from the group consisting of (alkyl, aryl or aralkyl) alcohol, amide, ketone, nitrogen heterocycle or ester pendent substituents, and any combination thereof. The connecting medium can be in a variety of forms such as a gel, solid, hydrogel, powder, liquid, viscous fluid, gauze made of cotton or other absorbent fabrics as well as pads and sponges, both natural and synthetic, may be used. Any suitable materials listed in U.S. Patent No. 5,385,543 could be used in conjunction with the present invention. U.S. Patent No. 5,423,739, issued to Phipps et al., describes iontophoretic materials and substances that can be used as the connecting medium.

Device 2 comprises a plurality of protrusions 4 extending downward from one surface of a member or plate 6 which has a connecting medium 65 (FIG. 1) on at least a portion of surface 48 (see Figure 2 in which device 2 is in an inverted position to show the protrusions and wherein the connecting medium is removed for clarity). The protrusions 4 can be blades (FIGS. 1 and 2), pins (not shown), or any of a variety of configurations for piercing the skin or body surface. The protrusions 4 penetrate the stratum corneum of the epidermis when pressure is applied to the device to increase the administration of or sampling of a substance through a body surface. The term "body surface" as used herein refers generally to the skin, mucous membranes, and nails of an animal or human, and to the outer surface of a plant. The protrusions 4 extend through the connecting medium 65 to pierce the body surface to create good agent conduction from the system into the body, or vice versa. The member 6 is formed with an opening 8 between the blades 4 for enhancing the movement of agent released from or collected in the agent containing or collecting reservoir 26. In one embodiment, the opening 8 corresponds to the portion of the member occupied

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Western Tech. Assoc. located in Anaheim, CA) a mixture of ferric chloride and hydrochloric acid is sprayed onto the resist and member 6 at 125 degrees F for two minutes. A standard caustic stripper is used for the resist removal.

In another embodiment of the etching process, a wet resist (e.g., "Shipley 111S" available from Shipley Corporation, located in Marlborough, MA) is applied 7.5 micrometers thick at about 70 degrees F to one or both sides of the member 6 and exposed in a standard manner. Then a suitable etchant (e.g., ferric chloride) is sprayed onto the resist and member at 120 degrees F. A standard caustic stripper is used for the resist removal.

Generally, the blades 4 are at an angle of about 90 degrees to the surface 48 of the member 6 after being punched, but they can be disposed at any angle forward or backward from the perpendicular position that will facilitate penetration of and attachment to the stratum corneum. In addition, other anchoring elements such as barbs, openings, etc. can be used with the angled blades to further enhance anchoring of the device.

The member 6 and blades 4 can be made from materials that have sufficient strength and manufacturability to produce blades, such as, glasses, ceramics, rigid polymers, metals and metal alloys. Examples of metals and metal alloys include but are not limited to stainless steel, iron, steel, tin, zinc, copper, silver, platinum, aluminum, germanium, nickel, zirconium, titanium and titanium alloys having nickel, molybdenum or chromium. Each of the member and blades can have a thin layer of silver, gold, platinum, iridium, titanium, rhodium plating or evaporated or sputtered biocompatible metals to provide for inertness, biocompatibility and preservation of the sharpness of the edges during storage. An example of glasses include a devitrified glass such as "Photoceram" available from Corning in Corning, NY. Examples of polymers include but are not limited to polystyrene, polymethylmethacrylate, polypropylene, "Bakelite", celluloseacetate, ethylcellulose, styrene/acrylonitrile copolymers,

styrene/butadiene copolymers, acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene (ABS) copolymers, polyvinyl chloride and acrylic acid polymers including polyacrylates and polymethacrylates.

The number of blades 4 and openings 8 of any of the embodiments of the device 2 is variable with respect to the desired flux rate, agent being sampled or delivered, delivery or sampling device used (i.e., electrotransport, passive, osmotic, pressure driven, etc.), and other factors as will be evident to one of ordinary skill in the art. In general, the larger the number of blades per unit area (i.e., blade density), the more uniform the flux of the agent is through the skin because there are a greater number of pathways through the skin. Consequently, the smaller the number of blades per unit area, the more concentrated the flux of the agent is through the skin because there are fewer pathways. Higher concentrations of agents in a skin pathway typically lead to higher incidences and/or severity of skin reactions (e.g., irritation). Therefore, larger blade densities reduce the incidence and/or severity of skin reactions.

One embodiment of the present invention relies on the application of an electric current across the body surface or "electrotransport". It will be appreciated by those working in the field that the present invention can be used in conjunction with a wide variety of electrotransport systems, as the invention is not limited in any way in this regard. For examples of electrotransport systems, reference may be had to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,147,296 to Theeuwes et al., 5,080,646 to Theeuwes et al., 5,169,382 to Theeuwes et al., 5,423,739 to Phipps et al., 5,385,543 to Haak et al., 5,310,404 to Gyory et al., and 5,169,383 to Gyory et al., of which any of the disclosed electrotransport systems can be used with the present invention.

Figures 3-7 illustrate a representative electrotransport delivery device 10 that may be used in conjunction with the present invention. Device 10 comprises an upper housing 16, a circuit board assembly 18, a lower housing 20, anode

The device 10 is generally comprised of battery 32, electronic circuitry 19,40, electrodes 22,24, agent reservoirs 26,28, and skin piercing device 2, all of which are integrated into a self-contained unit. Electrodes 22,24 and reservoirs 26,28 are retained by lower housing 20. Anodic electrode 22 is preferably comprised of a metal such as silver and cathodic electrode 24 is preferably comprised of a metal halide such as silver chloride. The outputs (not shown in Figure 3) of the circuit board assembly 18 make electrical contact with the electrodes 24 and 22 through openings 23,23' in the depressions 25,25' formed in lower housing 20, by means of electrically conductive adhesive strips 42,42'. Electrodes 22 and 24, in turn, are in direct mechanical and electrical contact with the top sides 44',44 of agent reservoirs 26 and 28. The bottom side 46 of agent reservoir 28 contacts the patient's skin through the opening 29 in adhesive layer 30. The bottom side 46' of agent reservoir 26 contacts the connecting medium through the plurality of openings 8 in the skin piercing device 2. The agent in reservoir 26 is typically a viscous gel that fills the

openings 8 such that the agent reservoir is in contact with the connecting medium 65 as can be seen in FIG. 1. As discussed above, typically the agent is present initially in both the reservoir and the connecting medium because of diffusion or because the reservoir and connecting medium are the same material. Both reservoirs 26 and 28 are preferably comprised of polymeric gel materials. A liquid agent solution or suspension is contained in at least one of the reservoirs 26 and 28.

The device 10 adheres to the patient's body surface (e.g., skin) by means of an adhesive layer 30 (which has upper adhesive side 34 and body-contacting adhesive side 36) and, optionally, anchoring elements on the device 2 of any of the embodiments discussed herein. Further, optionally, the connecting medium 65 can be tacky or adhesive for assisting in maintaining contact with the skin. The adhesive side 36 covers the entire underneath side of the device 10 except where the device 2 and cathodic electrode are located. The adhesive side 36 has adhesive properties which assures that the device 10 remains in place on the body during normal user activity, and yet permits reasonable removal after the predetermined (e.g., 24-hour) wear period. Upper adhesive side 34 adheres to lower housing 20 and retains the electrodes and agent reservoirs within housing depression 25, 25' as well as retains device 2 to lower housing 20 and lower housing 20 to upper housing 16.

In one embodiment of the agent delivery device there is a release liner (not shown) on the device 10 for maintaining the integrity of the device when it is not in use. In use, the release liner is stripped from the device before the device is applied to the skin. Device 10 also has a push button switch 12, which when pressed turns the device 10 on which is made apparent to the user by means of LED 14 becoming lit. Drug is delivered through the patient's skin (e.g., on the arm) by electrotransport over the predetermined delivery interval.

Examples of neutral or uncharged hydrogels for use in the

electrotransport system are polyvinyl alcohol crosslinked through a heating or cooling crystallization process or a combination of polyox crosslinked with carbopol or polyacrylic acid. The connecting medium can be electrically charged such as an ion exchange resin with a fixed charge and mobile counter charges. A preferred embodiment is a resin with fixed charges opposite the charge of the agent ion. An example of an ionically charged or ion exchange resin is cholestyramine®.

In other embodiments of the present invention, passive transdermal delivery or sampling devices are used with a connecting medium 65 predisposed on the bottom (i.e., skin facing) surface of the device. It will be appreciated by those working in the field that the present invention can be used in conjunction with a wide variety of passive transdermal systems, as the invention is not limited in this regard. For examples of passive systems, reference may be had to, but not limited to, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,379,454 to Campbell et al., 4,588,580 to Gale et al., 4,832,953 to Campbell et al., 4,698,062 to Gale et al., 4,867,982 to Campbell et al., and 5,268,209 to Hunt et al., of which any of the disclosed systems can be used with the present invention. Two examples of passive transdermal delivery devices are illustrated in Figures 8 and 9.

In Figure 8, passive transdermal delivery device 88 comprises a reservoir 90 containing a therapeutic agent (e.g., a drug) to be delivered transdermally. Reservoir 90 is preferably in the form of a matrix containing the agent dispersed therein. Reservoir 90 is sandwiched between a backing layer 92, which is impermeable to the agent, and an optional rate-controlling membrane 94. In Figure 8, the reservoir 90 is formed of a material, such as a polymer, that is sufficiently viscous to maintain its shape. If a lower viscosity material is used for reservoir 90, such as an aqueous gel, backing layer 92 and rate-controlling membrane 94 would be sealed together about their periphery to prevent leakage. Located below membrane 94 is skin piercing device 2 with connecting medium

65 on a skin facing surface thereof which extends through the openings (not shown) in device 2 to contact membrane 94. The device 88 adheres to a body surface by means of contact adhesive layer 96 around the periphery of the device 2 and, optionally, by the anchoring elements of any of the embodiments described previously. In most instances, the connecting medium 65 will initially contain agent. A strippable release liner (not shown) is normally provided along the exposed surface of adhesive layer 96 and is removed prior to application of device 10 to the body surface.

Alternatively, as shown in enlarged Figure 9, transdermal therapeutic device 98 may be attached to a body surface by means of a flexible adhesive overlay 100. Device 98 is comprised of an agent-containing reservoir 90 which is preferably in the form of a matrix containing the agent dispersed therein. Connecting medium 65 extends through the openings 8 to contact the reservoir 90. Alternatively, the matrix in reservoir 90 can extend through the openings 8 initially to be in contact with the connecting medium 65 or the reservoir and connecting medium can be the same. An impermeable backing layer 102 is provided adjacent one surface of reservoir 90. Adhesive overlay 100 maintains the device on the body surface. Adhesive overlay 100 can be fabricated together with, or provided separately from, the remaining elements of the device 98. With certain formulations, the adhesive overlay 100 may be preferable to the contact adhesive 96 shown in Figure 8. This is true, for example, where the agent reservoir contains a material (such as, for example, an oily surfactant) which adversely affects the adhesive properties of the contact adhesive layer 96. Impermeable backing layer 102 is preferably slightly larger than reservoir 90, and in this manner prevents the agents in reservoir 90 from adversely interacting with the adhesive in overlay 100. Optionally, a rate-controlling membrane (not shown in Figure 9) similar to membrane 94 in Figure 8 can be provided on the body surface side of reservoir 90. A strippable release liner (not shown) is also

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normally provided with device 98 and is removed just prior to application of device 98 to the body surface.

The formulation of reservoir 90 may be aqueous or nonaqueous based. The formulation is designed to deliver the agent at the necessary fluxes. Aqueous formulations typically comprise water and about 1 to 60 weight percent of a hydrophilic polymer as a gelling agent, such as hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethacrylate and polymers used in soft contact lenses. Typical non-aqueous formulations are comprised of silicone fluid, silicone rubbers, hydrocarbon polymers, polyisobutylene, rubbers, or mineral oil. Mineral oil-based gels also typically contain 1 to 2 weight percent of a gelling agent such as colloidal silicon dioxide.

The reservoir matrix having agent therein should be compatible with the delivered agent, uptake inhibiting agent (if any) and any carrier therefore. When using an aqueous-based system, the reservoir matrix is preferably a hydrophilic polymer (e.g., a hydrogel). When using a non-aqueous-based system, the reservoir matrix is preferably composed of a hydrophobic polymer. Suitable polymeric matrices are well known in the transdermal drug delivery art.

When a constant agent delivery rate is desired, the agent is present in the matrix or carrier at a concentration in excess of saturation, the amount of excess being a function of the desired length of the agent delivery period of the system. The agent may, however, be present at a level below saturation without departing from this invention as long as the agent and the uptake-inhibiting agent (if any) are continuously and co-extensively administered to the same body surface site in an amount and for a period of time sufficient to reduce or eliminate skin irritation by the agent.

In addition to the agent, the connecting medium may also contain dyes, pigments, inert fillers, permeation enhancers, excipients tackifiers, neutral polymers, surfactants, reagents, buffers, plasticizers, and other conventional

components of pharmaceutical products or transdermal devices known in the art.

The amount of agent present in the reservoir and the size of the reservoir is generally non-limited and is an amount equal to or larger than the amount of agent that in its released form is effective in bringing about the desired local and/or systemic physiological and/or pharmacological effects.

The preferred form in which an agent is delivered generally determines the type of delivery system to be used, and vice versa. That is, the selection of a "passive" system which delivers the agent by diffusion or an electrically powered system which delivers the agent by electrotransport will be mostly determined by the form of the agent. For example, with passive delivery systems, it has generally been recognized that the agent is preferably delivered in either its free base or acid form, rather than in the form of a water soluble salt when the agent diffuses through the stratum corneum. On the other hand, with electrotransport delivery devices, it has been recognized that the agents should generally be soluble in water. It is generally believed that the pathways for passive and electrotransported transdermal agent delivery through intact skin are different, with passive delivery occurring through lipid regions (i.e., hydrophobic regions) of the skin and electrotransport delivery occurring through hydrophilic pathways or pores such as those associated with hair follicles and sweat glands. For the case of pierced skin, substantial passive flux through the created pathways which are aqueous can be expected. The agent for passive delivery in the case of pierced skin is generally hydrophilic (e.g., water soluble salt form) and the preferred form of an agent for electrotransport delivery is also hydrophilic (e.g., water soluble salt form). For passive delivery, a combination of ionized agent (e.g., water soluble) and unionized agent (e.g., hydrophilic) can be used.

For osmotic and pressure driven systems which deliver agents by connective flow carried by a solvent, the agent preferably has sufficient solubility in the carrier solvent. It will be appreciated by those working in the field that

the present invention can be used in conjunction with a wide variety of osmotic and pressure driven systems, as the invention is not limited to a particular device in this regard. For examples of osmotic and pressure driven devices, reference may be had to U.S. Patent Nos. 4,340,480 to Eckenhoff, 4,655,766 to Theeuwes et al., 4,753,651 to Eckenhoff, 5,279,544 to Gross et al., 4,655,766 to Theeuwes, 5,242,406 to Gross et al., and 4,753,651 to Eckenhoff any of which can be used with the present invention.

This invention has utility in connection with the delivery of agents within any of the broad class of drugs normally delivered through body surfaces and membranes, including skin. In general, this includes drugs in all of the major therapeutic areas including, but not limited to, anti-infectives such as antibiotics and antiviral agents, analgesics including fentanyl, sufentanil, buprenorphine and analgesic combinations, anesthetics, anorexics, antiarthritics, antiasthmatic agents such as terbutaline, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antidiabetic agents, anti-diarrheals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, antimigraine preparations, anti-motion sickness preparations such as scopolamine and ondansetron, anti-nauseants, antineoplastics, antiparkinsonism drugs, antipruritics, antipsychotics, antipyretics, antispasmodics, including gastrointestinal and urinary anticholinergics, sympathomimetics, xanthine derivatives, cardiovascular preparations including calcium channel blockers such as nifedipine, beta-blockers, beta-agonists such as dobutamine and ritodrine, antiarrhythmics, antihypertensives such as atenolol, ACE inhibitors such as ranitidine, diuretics, vasodilators, including general, coronary, peripheral and cerebral, central nervous system stimulants, cough and cold preparations, decongestants, diagnostics, hormones such as parathyroid hormone, bisphosphoriates, hypnotics, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, parasympatholytics, parasympathomimetics, prostaglandins, psychostimulants, sedatives and tranquilizers.

The invention is also useful in the transdermal delivery of proteins, peptides and fragments thereof, whether naturally occurring, chemically synthesized or recombinantly produced. The invention may additionally be used in conjunction with the delivery of nucleotidic drugs, including oligonucleotide drugs, polynucleotide drugs, and genes. These substances typically have a molecular weight of at least about 300 daltons, and more typically have a molecular weight of at least about 300 to 40,000 daltons. Specific examples of peptides and proteins in this size range include, without limitation, LHRH, LHRH analogs such as goserelin, buserelin, gonadorelin, napharelin and leuprolide, GHRH, GHRF, insulin, insulotropin, calcitonin, octreotide, endorphin, TRH, NT-36 (chemical name: N-[[[(s)-4-oxo-2-azetidiny]carbonyl]-L-histidyl-L-prolinamide), liprecin, pituitary hormones (e.g., HGH, HMG, desmopressin acetate, etc), follicle luteoids, α ANF, growth factors such as growth factor releasing factor (GFRF), β MSH, GH, somatostatin, bradykinin, somatotropin, platelet-derived growth factor, asparaginase, bleomycin sulfate, chymopapain, cholecystokinin, chorionic gonadotropin, corticotropin (ACTH), erythropoietin, epoprostenol (platelet aggregation inhibitor), glucagon, HCG, hirulog, hyaluronidase, interferon, interleukins, menotropins (urofollitropin (FSH) and LH), oxytocin, streptokinase, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, vasopressin, desmopressin, ACTH analogs, ANP, ANP clearance inhibitors, angiotensin II antagonists, antidiuretic hormone agonists, bradykinin antagonists, ceredase, CSI's, calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP), enkephalins, FAB fragments, IgE peptide suppressors, IGF-1, neurotrophic factors, colony stimulating factors, parathyroid hormone and agonists, parathyroid hormone antagonists, prostaglandin antagonists, pentigetide, protein C, protein S, renin inhibitors, thymosin alpha-1, thrombolytics, TNF, vaccines, vasopressin antagonists analogs, alpha-1 antitrypsin (recombinant), and TGF-beta.

As mentioned, the device 2 of the present invention can also be used with

sampling devices including, but not limited to, reverse electrotransport (i.e., iontophoresis and/or electroosmosis), osmosis, and passive diffusion. Figure 10 illustrates an osmotic sampling device 104 in combination with any of the embodiments described previously for device 2 with connecting medium 65. Osmotic sampling devices can be used to sample any of a variety of agents through a body surface including, but not limited to glucose, electrolyte, alcohol and illicit substances (e.g., drugs of abuse). The osmotic sampling device 104 is attached to a body surface by means of a flexible adhesive overlay 100. Device 104 is comprised of a salt layer 106 separated by semi-permeable membrane 95 from a layer 94 which stores the agent to be sampled. The layer 94 is absorbant in character in that the layer (e.g., hydrogel) passes fluid drawn through the body surface but retains the agent being sampled. The device 2 with connecting medium 65 thereon is in contact with layer 94 such that the projections on device 2 pierce the body surface and the connecting medium 65 makes good contact with the body surface. The salt layer 106 draws fluid from the body by osmosis through the connecting medium 65 and layer 94. The fluid drawn from the body contains the agent being sampled. As the fluid containing the agent passes through layer 94, the agent is retained in layer 94 and the fluid is absorbed by the salt layer 106. Preferably, the salt layer is free to expand or is encapsulated in a semi-permeable membrane 95 so that it retains the fluid therein. The sampled agent can be measured in situ directly or withdrawn from the layer 94 and sampled by conventional means.

Alternatively, salt layer 106, layer 94 and semi-permeable membrane 95 can be combined in one layer of absorbant hydrogel that stores the absorbed fluid as well as the agent sampled. Additionally, this one layer can be configured as the connecting medium 65 thereby greatly simplifying the device.

The following example is merely illustrative of the present invention and should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention in any way, as

this example and other equivalents thereof will become apparent to those versed in the art and in light of the present disclosure, drawings, and the accompanying claims.

Example 1

The effect of the present invention is evaluated for its effect on drug flux and the skin resistance of a hairless guinea pig during electrotransport delivery of a model decapeptide drug. The following are specifications for the device. The device consists of a member having a plurality of rectangular openings having two blades, one on each end of a 0.25 mm^2 void area for each opening. The openings are aligned in pairs with every other pair of openings oriented 90 degrees to the previous pair of openings. All of the blades are about 500 micrometers long. There are 256 void areas per cm^2 and 512 blades per cm^2 . An electrotransport system is used which applies a constant current of 0.1 mA/cm^2 . It consists of a cathode counter reservoir comprising a Dulbelco's phosphate buffered saline imbibing gel and a donor anode reservoir comprising a hydroxyethylcellulose gel containing an aqueous solution of decapeptide buffered at pH 7.5. The electrotransport system is placed on the skin of a lightly anesthetized hairless guinea pig. Decapeptide flux is evaluated by measuring urinary excretion of this peptide. Use of the present invention results in increased decapeptide flux over the transport period compared to an ordinary electrotransport device.

It will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that the invention can be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential character thereof. The presently disclosed embodiments are therefore considered in all respects to be illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is indicated by the appended claims rather than the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range

of equivalents thereof are intended to be embraced therein.

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CLAIMS:

1. A device for introducing or withdrawing an agent through a body surface, comprising:
 - a member having a plurality of protrusions extending from a body surface contacting side of the member; and
 - a connecting medium capable of storing the agent therein or passing the agent therethrough on at least a portion of the body surface contacting side of the member.
2. The device of Claim 1 wherein the member has an opening therethrough.
3. The device of Claim 2 wherein the connecting medium extends across the opening.
4. The device of Claim 2 wherein the connecting medium extends through the opening.
5. The device of Claim 2 wherein the connecting medium is in the opening.
6. The device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting medium is in the range of about 10 micrometers to about 100 micrometers thick.
7. The device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting medium is about 50 micrometers thick.
8. The device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting medium comprises a hydrogel.

9. The device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting medium is preloaded with the agent to be delivered through the body surface.
10. The device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting medium comprises a form selected from the group consisting of a gel, a solid and a powder.
11. The device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting medium further comprises a matrix material.
12. The device of Claim 1 wherein the protrusions comprise blades.
13. The device of Claim 12 wherein at least one of the plurality of blades comprises means for anchoring the device to the body surface.
14. The device of Claim 1 further comprising an agent delivery device connected to a second side of the member, the agent delivery device selected from the group consisting of an electrotransport device, a passive device, an osmotic device, and a pressure driven device.
15. The device of Claim 14 wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a gene, a polypeptide, and a protein.
16. The device of Claim 1 further comprising a sampling device connected to a second side of the member, the sampling device selected from the group consisting of a reverse electrotransport device, a passive device, and an osmotic device.
17. The device of Claim 16 wherein a sampled agent is selected from the

group consisting of body electrolytes, illicit drugs and glucose.

18. A device for introducing or withdrawing an agent through a body surface, the device comprising:

a plurality of protrusions extending from a first side and an opening through the device between the protrusions; and

a connecting medium capable of storing the agent therein or passing the agent therethrough being predisposed in the opening.

19. The device of Claim 18 wherein the connecting medium is predisposed on a portion of the first side.

20. The device of Claim 18 wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a gene, a polypeptide, and a protein.

21. The device of Claim 18 wherein the connecting medium comprises a hydrogel.

22. The device of Claim 18 wherein the connecting medium is preloaded with an agent to be delivered through the body surface.

23. A method for introducing or withdrawing an agent through a body surface, comprising the steps of:

piercing the body surface with a plurality of protrusions extending from a first side of a member having a connecting medium capable of storing the agent therein or passing the agent therethrough on at least a portion of the first side; contacting the body surface with the connecting medium; and passing the agent through the body surface.

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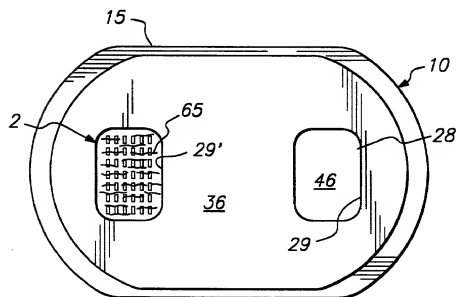
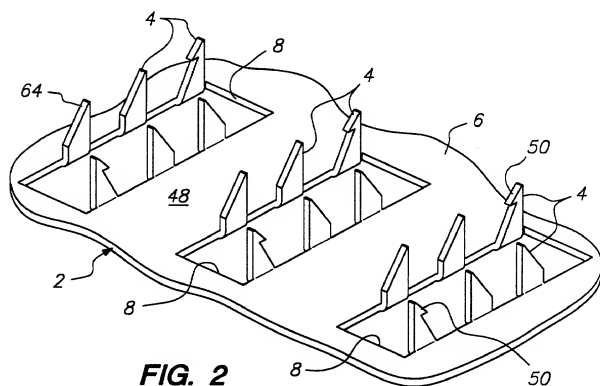
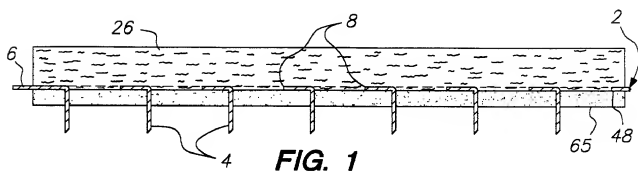
24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the passing step comprises:
administering the agent by a method selected from the group consisting of
electrotransport, passive delivery, osmosis, and pressure.
25. The method of Claim 23 wherein the passing step comprises:
sampling the agent by a method selected from the group consisting of
reverse electrotransport, passive sampling, and osmosis.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

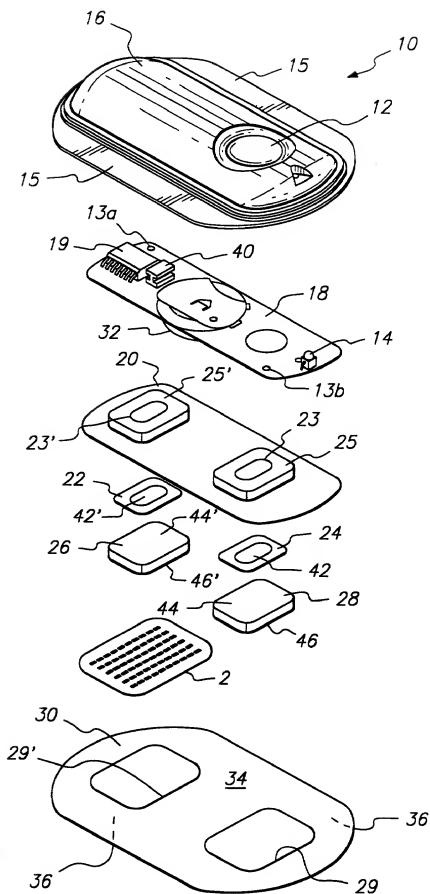
An agent delivery or sampling device (2) comprising a member (6) having a plurality of blades (4) for piercing the skin and a connecting medium (65) covering at least a part of the skin contacting side (48) of the member (6) for increasing transdermal flux of an agent.

[illegible]



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FIG. 3



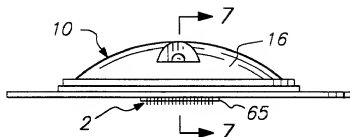


FIG. 5

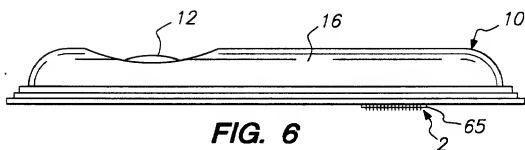


FIG. 6

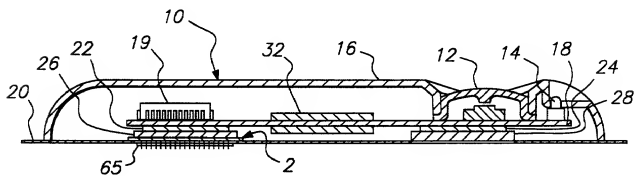


FIG. 7

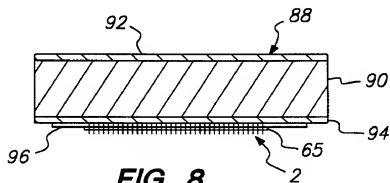


FIG. 8

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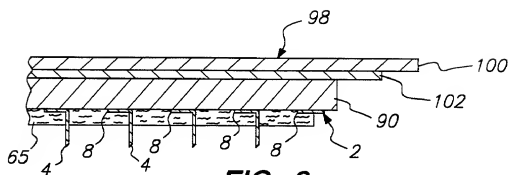


FIG. 9

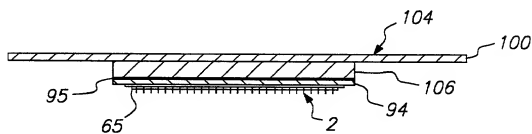


FIG. 10